

Kleptocracy is an obstacle to democratic progress, undermines faith in government institutions, and steals prosperity from the people. Promoting transparent, accountable governance is a critical component of our freedom agenda.

At this year's G-8 meeting in St. Petersburg, my colleagues joined me in calling for strengthened international efforts to deny kleptocrats access to our financial systems and safe haven in our countries; stronger efforts to combat fraud, corruption, and misuse of public resources; and increased capacity internationally to prevent opportunities for high-level public corruption. Today I am announcing a new element in my administration's plan to fight kleptocracy, the National Strategy to Internationalize Efforts Against Kleptocracy, which sets forth a framework to deter, prevent, and address high-level public corruption. It identifies critical tools to detect and prosecute corrupt officials around the world, so that the promise of economic assistance and growth reaches the people.

Our objective is to defeat high-level public corruption in all its forms and to deny corrupt officials access to the international financial system as a means of defrauding their people and hiding their ill-gotten gains. Given the nature of our open, accessible international financial system, our success in fighting kleptocracy will depend upon the participation and accountability of our partner nations, the international financial community, and regional and multilateral development institutions. Together, we can confront kleptocracy and help create the conditions necessary for people everywhere to enjoy the full benefits of honest, just, and accountable governance.

Statement on Terrorist Attacks in Najaf, Iraq

August 11, 2006

The terrorists in Iraq have again proven that they are enemies of all humanity. Yesterday they targeted innocent civilians in Najaf near a holy Muslim shrine—and a symbol of peace throughout the world.

According to Iraqi officials, the terrorist who committed this atrocity was stopped by Iraqi police before he could enter the holy shrine. These police officers were killed in the attack. They died for their country and for the cause of freedom, and we honor their dedication and bravery. We also mourn the loss of every innocent life in this atrocity and other atrocities perpetrated in Iraq in recent months.

On behalf of the American people, I join Iraqi leaders of all communities who have condemned this barbarous action in the strongest possible terms. To the Iraqi people, I pledge the commitment of the United States to helping your new Government bring peace and security to all areas of your country.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 5

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

August 6

In the morning, the President and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley participated in a video teleconference with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

August 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

August 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing followed by briefings by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley and Homeland Security Adviser Frances Fragos Townsend.

August 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

During the day, the President had separate telephone conversations with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley.

The President announced that he has named Deb Fiddelke as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Neal Burnham as Special Assistant to the President for White House Management.

The President announced that he has named Darren Hipp as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Correspondence.

The President announced that he has named Gregory Jacob as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

The President announced that he has named Brent J. McIntosh as Associate Counsel to the President.

August 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and a briefing on the arrests of suspected terrorists in Birmingham and London, England. Later, he traveled to Green Bay, WI, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Karl Durant. He then participated in a tour of Fox Valley Metal-Tech, Inc.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Oneida, WI, where, at a private residence, he attended a reception for congressional candidate John G. Gard. Later, at Oneida Police Department, he met family members of

military personnel killed in Iraq. He then returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at Broken Spoke Ranch, the President attended a Republican National Committee reception. He then returned to the Bush Ranch.

Also in the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel to discuss the United Nations draft resolution to end fighting in Lebanon.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley

Released August 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow